

Alex Marti and Lucky week 2

Our stop at Jim Robinson's place in Molt Montana was a welcome break. We got to sleep in a real bed and take real showers for two nights. Jim has been a good friend for years. His wife Brenda passed away two years ago from cancer. At the time they had a beautiful place in Alaska. Jim sold the place and moved to Montana. He has been a falconer most of his life and the area is a perfect location to fly his bird.



Gringo on his perch

We got a good education about the Gyr falcon that he has. He raised it from a chick. While we were there we got to see him play fetch...catching a tennis ball with his talons. Jim also showed us videos of Gringo doing his thing...attacking sage grouse in flight....pretty impressive.

I did some exploring on my motorcycle in the afternoon and I got to do my Monday night Second Life show from Jims place. Lucky found a new friend in Jim's dog Telac. Telac wore Lucky out....the only dog I've seen so far that had more energy than Lucky. We packed up and left early Tuesday for my friend Kelly's place in Priest Lake Idaho. After all the time we spent on two lane roads and in the mountains, being on I-90 for the day seemed like we were flying. Lucky has an entirely different mode for interstate riding....



Lucky in the interstate mode

We made such good time we decided to leave the interstate and explore some two lane roads enroute to Kelly's place. At Missoula, we unloaded a motor cycle we headed towards Kalispell and took HWY 200 following the Clark Fork River all the way to Lake Pend O'reille and then on to Priest River.



Clark Fork River

Lake Pend Oreille has the only freshwater navy base in the US. They do sub training there. The lake is over 1600 feet deep. Locals pronounce it Ponderey. It was breathtaking. We each took turns, riding about 50 miles each and following along in the van. Lucky was back to work on the two lane roads....yip wimper whimper.



Self explanatory

We arrived in time to meet some new friends at the Priest River Airport and have a cookout. Kelly and Raina's two boys kept Lucky busy chasing sticks and balls. A good deal of alcohol was consumed and stories told. The weather was cool and sweatshirts were the order of the evening. We parked the van around the side of the hangar and slept through the night. Lucky did too...she was really tuckered.

Wednesday dawned cloudy but noticeably warmer. We went to the local mom and pop breakfast place and had a great meal. Marti and I took the motorcycles on a day trip up the Pend O'rielle River about 50 miles. There are roads on both sides so we rode up one side, had some lunch and rode back the other. It was a good day.



A stop to rest our butts on the river

Kelly had to go to Seattle for work so he and Raina were gone when we got back. We had the place to ourselves so we took a walk, drank some wine and called it a night.

Thursday brought another pretty day. We got off to an early start and were on the road by 6:30. My friend Eva Moon had a Second Life Show at 4pm so we decided to take the scenic route and make a 5.5 hour drive on the interstate into a 9 hour back road adventure and planned to arrive about 5:30pm. We zigzagged on two lane roads to Lake Roosevelt and then followed the shoreline to Grand Coolie Dam.



Grand Coolie



Lucky after a swim in Banks Lake

We stopped at Fruitland, the largest town before Grand Coolie. The gas station was the café, the auto parts store, the grocery store and the post office....all in one. Lucky finally wore herself out on the two lane roads between the cows and horses and an occasional car.

We saw a lot of other bikers...mostly Harleys but the most unusual was a couple we found outside of Grand Coolie....



Hauling a boat and your dog seemed a little unusual

We arrived at Eva's house right on schedule at 5:30pm and she fixed us a wonderful dinner which was followed by wine tasting and song swaps.

Since we left Yellowstone, we have been blessed with great weather...hardly a raindrop so far even here in Seattle. Friday we spent working on music with Eva and taking Lucky for a long walk where Eva pumped Marti for vocal coaching tips. Eva and her husband Mike are great hosts and they have a very comfortable home on a hillside in Redmond with a great view of the mountains.



Saturday we awoke to a banner day with clear skies and warmer temperatures. Shortly after breakfast, Eva's personal trainer Shawn arrived...personal what? I was expecting to be barked at like a drill instructor but it wasn't too bad. We got a good workout because you will be surprised at what you can do with a good looking blond standing over your pushups.



Shawn



4 people in desperate need of a workout

The rest of the day got better. Remember when I said Kelly had to go to work? Well, Kelly flies a beautifully restored Beaver on floats for a wealthy Seattle family. One of his perks is that he gets to fly it on his time off. We met Kelly at Renton airport and got to fly the Beaver around town. It was a real thrill.



The launch



Kelly



Seattle up close...takeoff from Union Lake

I took several movies that will be in this week's video installment.

The awesome flight was followed by lunch on Lake Washington with one of my long time Second Life friends who we met for the first time in real life. Saturday evening was Eva's big show and my chance to play for the opening act. It all went well and was a lot of fun.

Sunday Eva hosted a jam session for all the Seattle based Second Life friends, beer was consumed and a good time was had by all....now to bed to get ready for this weeks adventure.